

# INTRODUCTION OF THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM REFORM ACT OF 2017

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 13, 2017*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to amend the Organic Act of Guam to prohibit salary changes for the Governor of Guam, the Lieutenant Governor of Guam, and Senators of the Guam Legislature until after a general election of the Legislature has passed. During last year's election, the people of Guam made clear that they disapproved of salary changes made in previous years for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and members of our Legislature, and my bill would ensure that any changes to the salaries of our local elected officials are appropriately deliberated and considered consistent with how Congress handles these matters.

The Organic Act of Guam establishes the framework of the Government of Guam but it is silent on provisions regarding changes in salary for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or members of the local Guam Legislature. Changes can be made and implemented at anytime simply by changing local law, and this has caused division in our community. Over the past several years, local policymakers and the people of Guam have debated pay increases that were proposed and instituted shortly after the 2014 general election. While I believe that these issues are up to local policymakers, and ultimately the people of Guam to decide, the Organic Act should provide safeguards regarding salaries for these elected officials that will prevent divisiveness in our community. The bill that I am introducing today would prevent the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Senators from increasing their salaries until after an intervening election of the Legislature has occurred. This is similar to the 27th Amendment to the Constitution that prohibits Members of Congress from increasing their pay until after an intervening election, and it is consistent with a request made by the Guam Legislature for me to introduce an amendment to the Organic Act for this purpose.

This bill is a step towards improving accountability for elected officials in Guam and is consistent with public opinion in Guam and the views expressed by the Guam Legislature. I encourage its adoption and urge my colleague to pass this legislation.

# IN RECOGNITION OF CHRIS STEWART WINNING HIS THIRD CONSECUTIVE SCHOOL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 13, 2017*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Langley School's very own, Chris Stewart, on winning the school-wide National Geographic Bee for the third consecutive year and for advancing to the statewide competition. Chris, an eighth grader attending the Langley School in McLean, advanced to

the school-wide Bee sponsored by the National Geographic Society after scoring the highest in a preliminary qualifying test earlier this year. His impressive achievement is not only a testament to his hard work and dedication, but also the exemplary teachers and faculty at the Langley School who helped cultivate Chris's intellectual intrigue.

At the beginning of every school year, the National Geographic Bee begins at the local level, then advances to the state and eventually national levels through a series of oral and written geography exams with questions ranging from the locations of mountain ranges and rivers to the names of cities and countries. Chris not only displayed his impressive knowledge of world geography, but also showed great confidence and poise, as he and his peers competed on stage in front of the entire school. As Langley School's winner, Chris will move on to compete at the state level, with a chance to eventually compete for a college scholarship at the national competition in May.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Chris Stewart for winning the Langley School's Geographic Bee for the third consecutive year. This achievement shows his dedication to his education and studies, and he is fully deserving of this recognition. It is a privilege to represent him, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

# HONORING PASTOR GILLETTE O. JAMES

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 13, 2017*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great religious, spiritual, and civic leader, Pastor Gillette James, of Beth Eden Baptist Church as he retires after more than 46 years of faithful service to his community.

Pastor James graduated from the University of San Francisco with Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees, and completed additional studies at Oxford University in England.

Pastor James joined the Beth Eden community in 1970 as an Assistant Pastor. Then only a year later, he accepted the call to lead the congregation of Beth Eden Baptist Church after the retirement of Pastor A.C. Dones. Under his strong leadership, the church built fifty-four units of senior housing and purchased other rental housing units for the community. Beth Eden also built a new sanctuary and administrative wing, and hired an architect for a new Family Life Center that is under development, vastly increasing the resources offered to the community of West Oakland.

Pastor James is truly an inspiration to other aspiring clergy, helping forty two other members complete coursework at accredited seminaries during his tenure, and twelve of those received advanced degrees. His leadership has been invaluable to those who have worked under his guidance to achieve their dreams of becoming ministers themselves.

Pastor James has also been a strong advocate for the role of women in church leadership positions. At one point, he was ousted from the California State Baptist Convention for his strong stance for women's involvement in the ministry. He has since been restored in

the Convention, and they heeded his direction to keep churches that fully recognize women clergy. Pastor James' commitment to the rights of women in leadership positions has never wavered, and I am sure owes much to the example of his wonderful wife, the late Dr. Rosa James.

Additionally, Pastor James has emphasized education as a key area of importance in his service to Beth Eden's community. Beth Eden's Scholarship Committee awards scholarships to high school graduates and college students to ensure that the youth of Oakland remain engaged and committed to their education.

On behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I take great pride in joining the Beth Eden community to salute the extraordinary Gillette O. James as he retires as Pastor of Beth Eden Baptist Church, and wish him many years of joyful retirement.

# RECOGNIZING JOHN NARIGI

**HON. JIMMY PANETTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 13, 2017*

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John V. Narigi for being named the 2016 Citizen of the Year by the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and to recognize Mr. Narigi's leadership in our community on the Central Coast.

Mr. Narigi is a native of Gig Harbor, Washington and graduated from Gonzaga University. In 1993, Mr. Narigi made a permanent move from Washington to the Monterey Peninsula. Since his move, Mr. Narigi has played an important role in leading the Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa's executive team. Among his many other accomplishments, Mr. Narigi has served as President and remained an active board member for the Monterey County Hospitality Association and has served on the Monterey Commercial Property Owners Association, the Cannery Row Business Association, the Monterey Bay Issues and Candidates Political Action Committee, and the Coalition of Peninsula Businesses.

He has proven himself to be a natural leader by transforming and raising the profile of local organizations that have improved the lives of residents and visitors alike. Mr. Narigi has dedicated his life's work to improving nonprofits, local small businesses, Monterey County leadership boards, and youth sports.

Mr. Narigi served as the Chairman of the Board for Rancho Cielo, a community organization dedicated to helping underserved youth in Monterey County become self-sufficient through vocational training and education. His commitment to the work done at Rancho Cielo is a testament to how much he cares about his community and making sure that our young people have opportunities to succeed.

As someone who has dedicated a lifetime to public service, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Narigi's tireless involvement on the Central Coast. Mr. Narigi's commitment to improving the well-being of our community is an inspiration to us all.